



MONROE FIRE DISTRICT #3
163 Village Court • Monroe, WA 98272

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 17, 2009
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CORRECTION:

Home Heating Incident Turns Tragic

CORRECTION: Royal Blair, who passed away when his clothes caught fire last Friday, was not wheelchair bound as indicated previously. According to family members, Mr. Blair had been working in his shop (not in a wheelchair) when his clothes apparently rubbed up against the propane cylinder with heater mounted on top (see attached photo). The device was a propane cylinder with a heater that attached to the top.

The family has requested that to honor Royal Blair's life, everyone who uses a propane cylinder with a heater, do so according to manufacturers' instructions, taking special consideration to use the protective cage or barrier installed around the heating element (do not remove it). The family wishes to help prevent tragedies such as this from happening to anyone else. Please see the attached photo of the actual propane cylinder/heating element that caught Mr. Blair's clothes on fire on that tragic day last Friday. Also attached is a photo of what the propane cylinder/heating element would have looked like with the cage/barrier left on.

Please remember that all appliances should be used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions and should never be used indoors or near combustible materials.



Propane cylinder that caught Mr. Blair's clothes on fire.



Propane cylinder that caught Mr. Blair's clothes on fire.



Propane cylinder with protected heating element.

12/15/09 Press Release:

Monroe, WA—On December 11, 2009, Monroe firefighters responded to the 19000 block of 144th Pl. SE. to an incident where a gentleman's clothes had caught fire. Firefighters arrived on scene within five minutes to find that the flames had been extinguished by family members. According to reports, the gentleman had backed into an open flame propane heater in his wheelchair when his clothes caught fire, causing subsequent burns. Monroe Fire District #3 treated and transported the injured man to Harborview Medical Center where he later died. Yesterday, the King County Medical Examiner's Office stated that the man, 76, had died from 40% thermal

